



MARCH 31, 1776

*My beloved husband,*

*I long to hear that you have declared an independency. And, by the way, in the new code of laws, which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors.*

*Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands.*

*Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.*

*That your gender is naturally tyrannical is a truth so thoroughly established as to admit of no dispute; but such of you as wish to be happy willingly give up -- the harsh tide of master for the more tender and endearing one of friend.*

*Why, then, not put it out of the power of the vicious and the lawless to use us with cruelty and indignity with impunity?*

*Men of sense in all ages abhor those customs, which treat us only as the servants of your sex; regard us then as being placed by Providence under your protection, and in imitation of the Supreme Being, make use of that power only for our happiness.*

*Your loving wife,  
Abigail*